

Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

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2018 AUG 17 PM 2:26

Post-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the **Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building**.

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I make the following disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me. I also certify that I have attached:

- ☒ The **original** *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* (Form RE-1), **AND**
☒ A **copy** of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form* with all attachments (itinerary, invitee list, etc.)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

Travel date(s): June 30, 2018 - July 8, 2018

Name of accompanying family member (if any): _____

Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

IF THE COST OF LODGING **DID NOT INCREASE** DUE TO THE ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD, ONLY INCLUDE LODGING COSTS IN EMPLOYEE EXPENSES. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Expenses for Employee:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount	\$8233.09	\$1875.71	\$1224.30	\$3662.82 Descriptions Attached

Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable):

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate <input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount				

Provide a description of all meetings and events attended. *See Senate Rule 35.2(c)(6)*. (Attach additional pages if necessary.): **Please reference final itinerary attached**

8/17/18
(Date)

Mark Isakowitz
(Printed name of traveler)

[Signature]
(Signature of traveler)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER:

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

8/17/18
(Date)

[Signature]
(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)



Breakdown of “other” expenses:

- Security: \$1,344.13 per person
- Speaker Fees: \$858.03 per person
- Hotels for contract staff (tour guide, bus driver, security guards): \$395.31 per person
- Tour Guide: \$369.17 per person
- Meals for contract staff and speakers: \$302.88 per person
- Room Rentals: \$185.25 per person
- Entrance Fees: \$63.81 per person
- Transportation in the Golan Heights: \$54.22
- Photography: \$33.93 per person
- Transportation for contract staff and speakers: \$25.74 per person
- Other: \$21.75 per person
- Tips: \$8.60 per person

Date/Time Stamp:

EMPLOYEE PRE-TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220**. Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved. This form **must** be typed and is available as a fillable PDF on the Committee's website at ethics.senate.gov. Retain a copy of your entire pre-travel submission for your required post-travel disclosure.

ETHIC MAY31*18AM 9:39

Name of Traveler: Mark Isakowitz

Employing Office/Committee: Senator Rob Portman (R-OH)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

Travel date(s): June 30 – July 8, 2018

*Note: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.*

Destination(s): Israel

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:


AS Chief of Staff to Senator Rob Portman, my duties include advising the Senator in matters of foreign policy and defense. Through my engagement with Israeli government officials, military officers, members of the Knesset, and Palestinian representatives, I will be able to better advise the Senator in those issue areas. Additionally, I will be able to survey the Israeli-American partnership as it deals with complex foreign policy issues in the region and gauge the effectiveness of US diplomatic resources in Israel.

Name of accompanying family member (if any): _____

Relationship to Employee: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge:

5-31-18
(Date)


(Signature of Employee)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING SENATOR/OFFICER (President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain):

I, Senator Rob Portman hereby authorize Mark Isakowitz
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name) (Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate. (signify "yes" by checking box) ☐

5/31/18
(Date)


(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senior Congressional Staff
June 30 – July 8, 2018**

Final Itinerary

Saturday, June 30, 2018

5:04 PM	Depart Dayton, OH (J.D. Grom only)
5:20 PM	Depart Union Station
7:00 PM	Arrive Newark (J.D. Grom only)
8:25 PM	Arrive Newark
10:50 PM	Depart Newark

Sunday, July 1, 2018

5:05 PM	Arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport
5:05-6:30 PM	Transfer to Jerusalem
6:30 PM	Check-in to The Orient Hotel
6:45 PM	Depart for dinner
7:30-8:00 PM	<i>Setting the Stage</i> Orientation with Cameron Brown, Director of AIEF Israel - at Touro
8:00-9:45 PM	<i>State of the Nation</i> Dinner with David Horovitz Editor, <i>Times of Israel</i> - at Touro
9:45-10:30 PM	<i>Shalom Jerusalem</i> Introduction to the History of the City Brief walking survey
10:30 PM	Overnight at the Orient Hotel

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Monday, July 2, 2018

7:30 AM	Breakfast is served - at the hotel
8:00-9:00 AM	<i>Israeli Palestinian Negotiations – An Update</i> Breakfast with Dr. Tal Becker Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs - at the hotel
9:00 AM	Depart for Strategic Survey of Jerusalem
9:15 AM-12:45 PM	<i>Strategic Survey of Jerusalem – Part I: The Historic and Holy Basin</i> Guided tour of the Old City of Jerusalem
12:45 PM	Depart
1:45-2:45 PM	<i>Israel's Political Map</i> Lunch with Dr. Cameron Brown Director, AIEF Jerusalem
3:00 PM	Depart for the Knesset
3:30 PM	Security check
4:00-4:45 PM	Meeting with the Honorable Stav Shaffir Member of Knesset, Zionist Union Party -at the Knesset
5:00-5:30 PM	Meeting with the Honorable Naftali Bennett Minister of Education and Diaspora Affairs, Leader, The Jewish Home Party - at the Knesset
6:00-7:15 PM	<i>Strategic Survey of Jerusalem – Part I: The Historic and Holy Basin</i> Guided tour of the Old City of Jerusalem
7:45 PM	Depart for dinner
8:00-10:00 PM	Dinner - at Tali's Atelier
10:00 PM	Overnight at the Orient Hotel

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

7:30 AM	Breakfast on own - at the hotel
8:30 AM	Depart for Yad Vashem
9:00-11:00 AM	<i>Remembering the Victims of the Holocaust</i> Guided tour of Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum
11:00 AM	Depart for the American Colony Hotel
11:30 AM-1:00 PM	<i>A View from the Palestinian Authority</i> Lunch with Dr. Saeb Erekat Palestinian Peace Coalition/Geneva Initiative, Palestinian Authority - at the American Colony Hotel
1:00 PM	Depart
1:30-2:30 PM	<i>A View from the Prime Minister's Office</i> Meeting with David Keyes International Media Advisor, Office of the Prime Minister - at the Crowne Plaza Jerusalem Hotel
2:30 PM	Depart for Tel Aviv
4:00-5:00 PM	<i>Why a Jewish State?</i> Meeting with Dr. Einat Wilf Senior Research Fellow, The Jewish People Policy Institute (JPPI) Former Member of Knesset -at the Sheraton Tel Aviv hotel
5:00 PM	Check-in to the Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel
7:30 PM	Depart for dinner
8:00-10:00 PM	<i>Tikkun Olam- Repairing the World</i> Dinner with <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Naty Barak, Netafim▪ Hagit Krakov, Israid▪ Dr. Ofer Merin, Emergency Response from Haiti to Syria▪ Sivan Ya'ari, Innovation Africa - at Quattro
10:00 PM	Overnight at the Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel

Wednesday, July 4, 2018

7:45 AM	Breakfast is served - at the hotel
8:00-9:15 AM	<i>Regional Strategic Threats</i> Meeting with Brig. Gen. (res) Nitzan Nuriel Immediate Past Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau, Prime Minister's Office - at the hotel
9:15 AM	Depart
10:00-11:30 AM	Visit to Palmachim Air Force Base -Palmachim
11:30 AM	Depart
12:30-2:00 PM	<i>How Israeli Armament Innovations Defend the U.S.</i> Lunch with Ari Sacher Former Iron Dome Systems Project Manager, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems -at Deca
2:00 PM	Depart
2:30-4:00 PM	<i>Save a Child's Heart</i> Meet with Dr. Zion Houry and Visit the Recovery Home - at Wolfson Medical Center
4:00 PM	Depart
4:45-5:30 PM	<i>Life Under the Threat of Rocket Fire</i> Meeting with Chen Abrahams Local Resident, Kibbutz Kfar Aza -at the Sheraton Tel Aviv hotel
5:45-6:45 PM	Strategic Overview: Syrian Civil War Meeting with Dr. Jonathan Spyer Fellow, Middle East Forum Middle East Analyst and Correspondent -at the Sheraton Tel Aviv hotel
6:45 PM	Depart hotel

7:00-7:30 PM	<i>360° Bird's Eye View</i> Briefing from the Azrieli Tower Rooftop
7:30 PM	Depart for Dinner
8:00-10:00 PM	<i>The Israeli Mosaic</i> Dinner with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professor Dov Chernichovsky, Israel's Health Care System ▪ Moshe Friedman, Founder, KarmaTech ▪ Pnina Radai, Director of Training Programs, National school of Government, CSC - Israel Civil Service ▪ Dan Slijper, LGBT Activist -at Spoons Salon
10:00 PM	Overnight at the Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel

Thursday, July 5, 2018

7:30 AM	Breakfast on your own - at the hotel
8:00 AM	Depart
8:30-9:30 AM	<i>Start-Up Nation</i> Panel Discussion, moderated by Dr. Cameron Brown, with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jordana Cutler, Facebook ▪ Dov Maisel, United HaTzalah ▪ Dr. Oren Milstein, StemRad ▪ Eliav Rodman, Orcam - at Facebook Israel
9:30 AM	Depart
10:30-11:00 AM	<i>Israel's Narrow Waistline – Strategic Concerns</i> Briefing at Alfei Menashe
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	<i>Israeli Settlements in Focus</i> Briefing with Oded Ravivi, Mayor of Efrat Yariv Oppenheimer, immediate past head, Peace Now -at Alfei Menashe Matnas

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12:00-1:30 PM	<p>Depart</p> <p>En route briefings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The Jezreel Valley – The Strategic Land Bridge connecting Asia and Africa</i> ▪ <i>Upper Galilee – Potential for Development</i>
1:30-3:00 PM	<p><i>Minority Rights in Israel</i></p> <p>Lunch with Mohammad Darwashe Director of Planning, Equality and Shared Living Givat Haviva Educational Institute - at his home, Iqsal</p>
3:30 PM	Depart
4:30-5:30 PM	<p><i>Israel's Northern Border Concerns: Lebanon and Hizballah</i></p> <p>Briefing with Lt.-Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi Northern Border Expert - at Mt. Adir</p>
5:45 PM	Depart
6:30 PM	Check-in to the U Boutique Hotel
7:45 PM	Depart for dinner
8:00-10:00 PM	<p><i>Reflections of the Week</i></p> <p>Dinner and Discussion - at Decks</p>
10:00 PM	Overnight at U Boutique Hotel
<u>Friday, July 6, 2018</u>	
7:30 AM	<p>Breakfast on own - at the hotel, Main Dining Hall</p>
8:30 AM	Depart
9:00-11:00 AM	<p><i>Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee</i></p> <p>Tour of historical and religious sites around the Sea of Galilee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mt. of Beatitudes – Sermon on the Mount ▪ St. Peter's Church ▪ Capernaum – Jesus' Village

11:00 AM	Depart for the Golan Heights
12:00-1:00 PM	<i>Israel's Northern Border Concerns: Syria</i> Strategic survey of Israel's border with Syria With Capt. (Res.) Ilan Shulman - at Kibbutz Ein Zivan
1:00 PM	Depart
1:15-2:30 PM	Lunch -at Habokrim
2:30-4:00 PM	Travel back to Jerusalem via the Jordan Valley En route briefings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Strategic Survey – Israel's Border with Jordan</i> ▪ <i>The Jordan Valley – Israel's Defensive Buffer Facing East</i>
4:00-4:30 PM	<i>Jordan Gateway Industrial Park</i> Visit to join development project between Israel and Jordan
4:30-5:30 PM	Continue to Jerusalem
5:30 PM	Check-in to the Orient Hotel
7:15 PM	Depart for dinner
7:30-9:30 PM	<i>Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem</i> Traditional Sabbath evening dinner With Naomi and Jonathan Schachter-Price - at their home in Jerusalem
9:30 PM	Overnight at the Orient Hotel

Saturday, July 7, 2018

8:00 AM	Breakfast on own - at the hotel, Main Dining Hall
8:30-10:00 AM	Depart En route briefing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor</i> ▪ <i>The Dead Sea Region – Environmental Concerns</i>

10:00 AM-12:30 PM *History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire*
Guided tour of the National Archeological Park at Masada

12:30-1:30 PM *Exploration of the Dead Sea Region*
- at Kalya Beach

1:30-2:30 PM Lunch
- at Kalya Beach

2:30 PM Depart for Jerusalem

4:00 PM Return to hotel
Check out

6:00-8:00 PM *The U.S.-Israel Relationship: Bringing it All Together*
Closing dinner
- at the hotel

8:00 PM Depart for the Airport

11:10 PM Depart Tel Aviv

Sunday, July 8, 2018

4:10 AM Arrive Newark

8:15 AM Depart Newark (J.D. Grom only)

8:35 AM Depart Newark

9:59 AM Arrive Washington, D.C.

10:19 AM Arrive Dayton, OH (J.D. Grom only)

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PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by any private entity offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to Senate Members, officers, or employees (Senate Rule 35, clause 2). Each sponsor of a fact-finding trip must sign the completed form. The trip sponsor(s) must provide a copy of the completed form to each invited Senate traveler, who will then forward it to the Ethics Committee with any other required materials. The trip sponsor(s) should **NOT** submit the form directly to the Ethics Committee. Please consult the accompanying instructions for more detailed definitions and other key information.

The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors):
American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
2. Description of the trip:
Please see attached
3. Dates of travel: June 30 - July 8, 2018
4. Place of travel: Israel (multiple cities)
5. Name and title of Senate invitees: Please see attached
6. I *certify* that the trip fits one of the following categories:
☒ (A) The sponsor(s) are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** do not retain or employ registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.
- OR -
☐ (B) The sponsor or sponsors are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, but retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and the trip meets the requirements of Senate Rule 35.2(a)(2)(A)(i) or (ii) (*see question 9*).
7. ☒ I *certify* that the trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- AND -
☒ I *certify* that the sponsor or sponsors will not accept funds or in-kind contributions earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.
8. I *certify* that:
☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except for *de minimis* lobbyist involvement.
- AND -
☒ The traveler will not be accompanied on the trip by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except as provided for by Committee regulations relating to lobbyist accompaniment (*see question 9*).

9. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)**

I *certify* that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.

– OR –

☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (*see questions 6 and 10*).

– OR –

☐ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)**

If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

n/a

11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:

AIEF is solely responsible for recruiting, coordinating, executing, and funding all aspects of this trip.

13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:

AIEF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with the mission of providing educational programming about the U.S.-Israel relationship. The delegation will have the opportunity to meet with a diverse group of Israelis and Palestinians, and see first-hand the outcome of U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation in the region.

14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:

Please see attached

15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

Please see attached

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith estimate <input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts	\$7,944.60	\$1,737 Orient \$316 x 3 nights Sheraton \$289 x 2 nights Nof Ginosar \$211 x 1 night	\$1,046 JLM per diem \$140 x 4 dats TLV per diem \$170 x 2 days TIB per diem \$146 x 1 day	\$2,624.41 breakdown attached

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation or b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

b) The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip

The trip will take place in Israel in order to educate Congressional staff about the U.S.-Israel relationship.

19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:

Orient (Emek Refaim Street 3, Jerusalem); Sheraton (Hayarkon Street 115, Tel Aviv-Yafo);

Nof Ginosar (Kibbutz Ginosar, Tiberias)

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

We chose these hotels due to their location and affordability.

21. Describe how the daily expenses for lodging, meals, and other expenses provided to trip participants compares to the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel:

The daily expenses for lodging and meals do not exceed the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel.

22. Describe the type and class of transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first class transportation will be provided. If first-class fare is being provided, please explain why first-class travel is necessary:

Participants will fly business class on a commercial airline.

23. ☒ I represent that the travel expenses that will be paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees do not include expenditures for recreational activities, alcohol, or entertainment (other than entertainment provided to all attendees as an integral part of the event, as permissible under Senate Rule 35).

24. List any entertainment that will be provided to, paid for, or reimbursed to Senate invitees and explain why the entertainment is an integral part of the event:

none

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (For trips involving more than one sponsor, you *must* include a completed signature page for each additional sponsor):

Signature of Travel Sponsor:

Name and Title: Richard Fishman, Executive Director

Name of Organization: American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

Address: 251 H Street NW, Washington DC 20001

Telephone Number: (202) 639-5233

Fax Number: n/a

E-mail Address: rfishman@aiefdn.org

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Hinson, Connor (Portman)

From: Isakowitz, Mark (Portman)
Sent: Friday, May 4, 2018 4:04 PM
To: Rob Bassin
Cc: Julie Peretz; Hinson, Connor (Portman)
Subject: Re: Please Join Us: AIEF Israel Seminar, June 30-July 8, 2018

As I think you know I will attend!
Let's try this again!
May I ask who we have so far?

Sent from my iPhone

On May 4, 2018, at 2:39 PM, Rob Bassin <RBassin@aipac.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I hope you received our invitation for the AIEF Israel Seminar for Senior Congressional Staff, June 30-July 8 (a generic invitation is below). The trip is filling up, so please let me know if you will be able to participate. I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,
Rob

Robert H. Bassin
National Political Director
202.639.5279 fax 202.347.4921
rbassin@aipac.org



AMERICAN ISRAEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

We would like to invite you to join us for an educational seminar in Israel for senior congressional staff sponsored by the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF). The trip will depart on Saturday evening, June 30, 2018; and return to the U.S. Sunday morning, July 8, 2018.

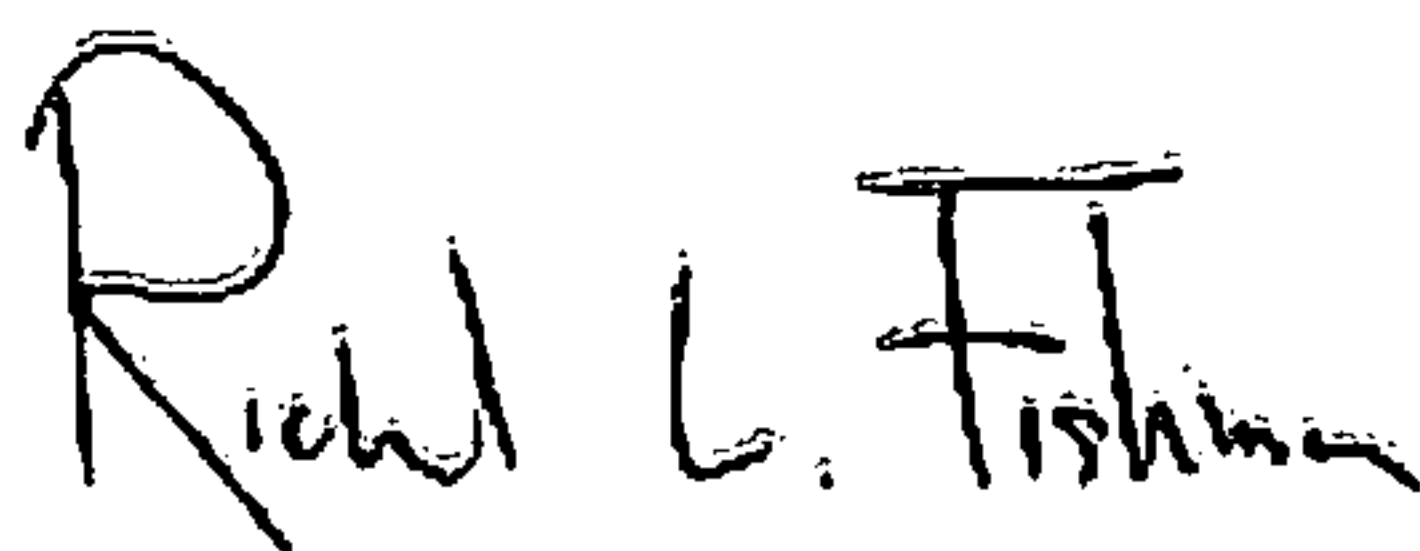
The trip will explore critical foreign policy and national security challenges facing both Israel and the United States and how the two countries are cooperating in dealing with these issues. The program will include discussions with Israeli government officials, military officers, members of the Knesset, U.S. officials, Palestinian representatives and leading academics and journalists. The program will also include:

- Briefings on the status of Iranian compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and Iran's continued malign regional activities;
- In-depth discussions on the Israeli and Palestinian political climate and prospects for peace, as well as the political changes taking place in the region;
- A visit to Israel's southern border and briefings on the threat posed by the terrorist organization Hamas which maintains control over the Gaza strip
- A strategic survey of Israel's northern border;
- Visits to historic and religious sites in Jerusalem and the Galilee.

No later than 30 days prior to departure, participants are responsible for submitting two forms, as well as a copy of this invitation to the Senate Select Committee on Ethics. AIEF will provide you with a copy of the "Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form." You must also submit a completed and signed "Employee Pre-Travel Authorization Form" to the Committee. AIEF is committed to ensuring that every aspect of the trip complies with the Senate travel rules. If you have any specific questions about the rules, please contact the Senate Select Committee on Ethics.

We hope that you will be able to join us on what promises to be a rich, insightful and educational trip. If you have any questions, or to confirm your participation, contact Julie Peretz at (202) 639-5192 or jperetz@aiefdn.org.

Sincerely,



Richard Fishman
Executive Director, AIEF

AIEF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with the mission of providing educational programming about the U.S.-Israel relationship. AIEF strives to provide qualitative and balanced educational symposia for members of Congress and congressional staff, leaders in the fields of politics and business

and students. Established in 1990, AIEF has earned a reputation for producing informative and thought-provoking educational seminars in Israel.

AMERICAN ISRAEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION | The Charitable Organization affiliated with AIPAC
251 H Street, NW | Washington, DC 20001 | Phone: 202-639-5200 | Fax: 202-347-5232

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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

June 26, 2018

Mark Isakowitz
Office of Senator Rob Portman
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Isakowitz:

This responds to your recent correspondence concerning an invitation you received to travel to an education seminar in Israel, on June 30 to July 8, 2018, sponsored by the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF). AIEF certified to the Select Committee on Ethics (the Committee) that it will pay the *necessary expenses*¹ related to the travel and that it is neither a lobbyist, nor lobbying firm, nor agent of a foreign principal, and it is not otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government. AIEF has also certified that it does not retain or employ a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal and that no registered lobbyist will accompany you at *any point throughout your trip*.²

Based on information and materials available to the Committee, and assuming the **actual** travel and travel-related expenses conform to the information and materials you provided, it appears that the proposed payment or reimbursement of necessary expenses for this trip **may be accepted** under relevant Senate Rules and the Committee's *Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel*, so long as at the time of the payment or reimbursement, AIEF is neither a registered lobbyist nor lobbying firm under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, nor an agent of a foreign principal under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (and is not otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government), and provided the travel and all required documents are disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate in accordance with the provisions of Senate Rules 34 and 35.

Under Senate Rule 35, Senate staff must receive advance authorization signed by the Member or officer under whose direct supervision the individual works in order to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary expenses related to fact-finding travel. Further, such authorization and expenses must be disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate by filing the completed *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* and the *Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses* (Form RE-1 and Form RE-2), along with a copy of the *Private Sponsor Travel*

¹ The term "necessary expenses" has a specific definition. See *Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel – Glossary of Terms* at 8.

² The term "any point throughout your trip" has a specific definition. See *Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel – Glossary of Terms* at 2.

Certification Form, and all relevant attachments (e.g., the private sponsor's invitation and itinerary) **within 30 days of the conclusion of Privately-Sponsored Travel.**

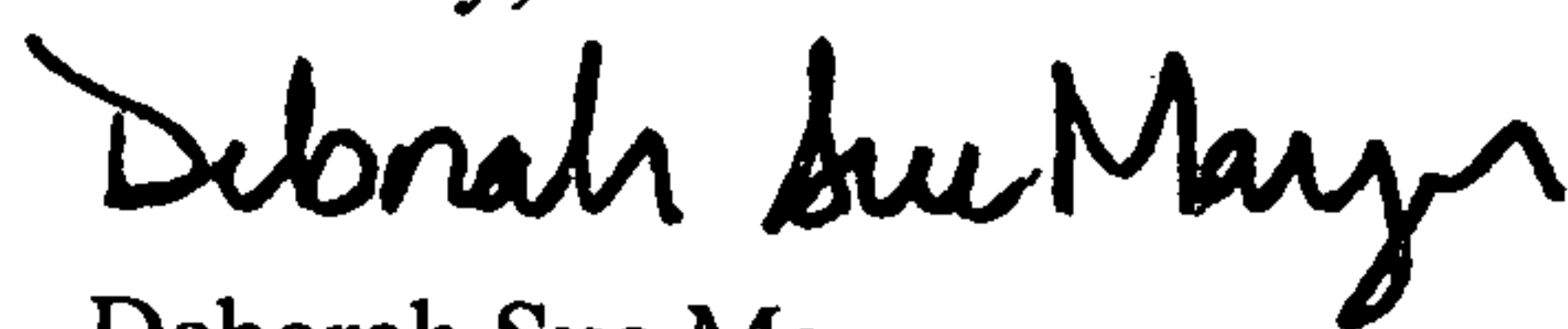
The Committee has determined that § 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that are classified as private foundations, as opposed to public charities, may not pay for transportation from the United States to a foreign country.³ However, AIEF represented to the Committee that it is a § 501(c)(3) public charity, as opposed to a private foundation, pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.⁴

Please be advised that the United States Constitution prohibits the acceptance of any gift, including a meal, from a foreign government without the consent of Congress. In the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), Congress consented to the acceptance by federal government officials of: (1) gifts of minimal value and (2) travel or the expenses for travel taking place entirely outside the United States, from a foreign government (which includes those acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government).⁵ The Senate has defined minimal value as \$100 or less. Further, pursuant to FGDA, there are certain reporting and procedural requirements that are imposed upon Members, officers, and employees who accept gifts from a foreign government. Please review the Committee's "Dear Colleague" letter of January 16, 2018, setting forth the items to be included in filing that report.

Finally, Senate Rule 34 requires a reporting individual,⁶ on his or her Financial Disclosure Report, to make an annual disclosure of the receipt of payments or reimbursements under Senate Rule 35 from a private sponsor for officially-related travel expenses where, in the aggregate, travel expenses exceed \$390 from that sponsor during a calendar year. However, if a Member, officer, or employee properly reports the receipt of necessary expenses for such travel to the Secretary of the Senate within 30 days of the travel, as discussed above, the travel expenses need not be disclosed a second time on their Financial Disclosure Report.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee.

Sincerely,



Deborah Sue Mayer
Chief Counsel and Staff Director

Enclosure: Travel Checklist

³ See 26 U.S.C. § 4941 et seq. Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code broadly defines non-profit, charitable, tax-exempt organizations. These § 501(c)(3) organizations are then further defined or designated as "public charities" and "private foundations."

⁴ 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3).

⁵ 5 U.S.C. § 7342.

⁶ A reporting individual is someone whose salary equals or exceeds 120% of the basic rate of pay for GS-15 (\$126,148 for CY 2018) or is a political fund designee and is required to file Financial Disclosure Reports.

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Senate Invitees

- 87-060000

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senior Congressional Staff
June 30 – July 8, 2018**

Addendum

2. Description of the Trip

This seminar, which will be on the ground in Israel for seven days, is specifically designed to explore foreign policy and defense issues related to the U.S.-Israel relationship. Some of the key issues to be addressed include: Iran's continued malign regional activities; the impact of Syrian civil war along Israel's northern border; the internal political situations of both Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the status of the peace process; and the expanded cooperation between the U.S. and Israel in fighting terrorism and proliferation.

The seminar will consist of discussions with Israeli government officials, military officers, Members of the Knesset, Palestinian representatives and U.S. officials, as well as site surveys of the northern border with Lebanon and Syria, the southern border with the Gaza Strip, and the security fence. The seminar also aims to provide the political, historic, and religious context to the current conflicts and issues facing Israel and the region. It will explore the connection the three monotheistic religions have with the land and the influence this connection has on today's struggles. In addition to formal meetings and briefings, the trip provides experiential opportunities to help better understand the geographical complications, the security implications, and the historic root causes of the current conflicts.

14. Sponsoring Congressional Trips

Founded in 1990, the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF) funds Israel Seminars for members of Congress, Capitol Hill staffers, students, political consultants, as well as religiously motivated pro-Israel Christian, Latino, African American, Progressive, and Veteran leaders. These trips to Israel are among the most critical programs AIEF supports on behalf of the U.S.-Israel relationship. These educational seminars allow policy makers to understand the complex historical, religious and geographic context of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Participants have the opportunity to meet with Israeli government officials, military officers, members of the Knesset, U.S. government officials, Palestinian Authority officials and leading academics and journalists. For many of the participants, who make important decisions impacting Israel and the Middle East, these trips are their first, and sometimes, only exposure to the country.

15. Other Educational Activities

AIEF grants support innovative and award-winning programming that educates a wide array of participants, including college students, members of Congress and their staff, and political professionals.

16. Other Expenses

Security: \$1,000 per person

-AIEF considers the security of its trip participants as its highest priority. A security team accompanies all participants throughout the trip.

Speaker Fees: \$647.06 per person

-Honoraria for guest speakers

Tour Guide: \$264.71 per person

-As a detailed historical understanding is crucial to maximizing the educational aspect of the trip, a licensed tour guide accompanies the group throughout the trip.

Hotels for contract staff (tour guide, bus driver, security guards): \$194.12 per person

Meals for contract staff and speakers: \$188.24 per person

Room Rentals: \$176.47 per person

-The cost of renting rooms at hotels and restaurants for meetings and meals with speakers.

Entrance Fees: \$52.94 per person

-Several sites require an entrance fee, including the southern Western Wall excavations and the holy sites around the Sea of Galilee.

Transportation for contract staff and speakers: \$35.29 per person

Photography: \$29.41 per person

-On each trip we take a group photo with a professional photographer

Other: \$29.41 per person

-Briefing materials, miscellaneous

Tips: 6.76 per person

-Tips for hotel staff

21. Per Diem

The three hotel rates are below the international per diems for Israel. The estimate for meal expenses will be below or at per diem, and includes the cost for meals, snacks, and water on the bus. It does not include alcohol, as we do not pay for alcohol per Senate ethics rules.

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senior Congressional Staff
June 30 – July 8, 2018**

Itinerary

Saturday, June 30, 2018

4:55 PM Depart Washington, D.C.

6:20 PM Arrive Newark

10:50 PM Depart Newark

Sunday, July 1, 2018

4:20 PM Arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport

5:00-6:00 PM Transfer to Jerusalem

6:00 PM Check-in to The Orient Hotel

6:45 PM Depart for dinner

7:00-7:30 PM *Setting the Stage*
Orientation with Cameron Brown, Director of AIEF Israel
- at Touro

7:30-9:30 PM *State of the Nation*
Dinner with David Horovitz
Editor, *Times of Israel*
- at Touro

State of the Nation

David Horovitz is the founding editor of *Times of Israel*, the leading current affairs website in Israel. Mr. Horovitz is a talented and insightful speaker and is known for providing an illuminating synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs and the general state of mind of the Israeli voters.

9:30-10:30 PM *Shalom Jerusalem*
Introduction to the history of the city
Brief walking tour

Shalom Jerusalem

During this brief walking survey, the tour guide will provide a lay of the land, and an introduction to Jerusalem.

10:30 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel

Monday, July 2, 2018

Please bring your passports

7:30 AM Breakfast is served
- at the hotel, Wingate room

7:45-9:00 AM *Israel's Political Map*
Breakfast with Professor Reuven Hazan
Political Science Department
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- at the hotel

Israel's Political Map

It is critical for trip participants to understand the parliamentary system in Israel. Professor Hazan explains how the parliamentary party system works, how coalitions rise and fall, and how Israeli politics differ from American politics. Since the group will be visiting with government officials throughout the week, we believe it's important to provide this overview early in the seminar.

9:00 AM Depart for Strategic Survey of Jerusalem

9:15 AM-12:00 PM *Strategic Survey of Jerusalem – Part I:*
The Historic and Holy Basin
Guided tour of the Old City of Jerusalem

Jerusalem

Throughout its 4,000-year history, the city of Jerusalem has changed hands many times. As home to the world's three great monotheistic religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam — Jerusalem is probably the most disputed city in history. Today, the status of Jerusalem remains the most contentious issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jerusalem has been at the heart of all recent Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, from the Oslo Accords to the Camp David Summit to the Taba negotiations, and in the most recent talks under the auspices of the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. To understand the current political issues, it is critical to understand Jerusalem's history and the role it has played in shaping the Middle East. This seminar will include site visits to various locations in and around Jerusalem to give participants a first-hand look at the historic significance of the city, as well as its geographic layout.

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Old City of Jerusalem & the Holy Basin

The Old City of Jerusalem is home to the holiest shrines of the three monotheistic religions, including the Temple Mount, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. During the Camp David II talks, the Palestinians and Israelis differed on the Jerusalem question, namely the Old City, the status of Arab neighborhoods just outside the Old City, and religious sites such as the Temple Mount.

The Holy Basin is the historic location of Jerusalem and refers to the land surrounding the Old City, including the Mount of Olives, which is believed to be the departure point for Jesus’ final entry into Jerusalem and where Jews have been burying their dead for 2,500 years. The Holy Basin also includes the Western Wall, Judaism’s holiest site, and the Temple Mount (Haram al-Sharif), sacred ground for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Control over these sensitive areas remains among the largest disputes in the Middle East.

The professionally guided survey will walk through these sites and others, educating trip participants on their historical impact and their role in today’s political discussions.

The City of David

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has consumed an enormous amount of time and manpower of members of consecutive American Administrations as well as members of Congress. One of the most intractable issues in the conflict has been the question of the future of Jerusalem. Jerusalem’s City of David, more than any other site, represents the complexity of this conflict.

The City of David is the site most archeologists agree to be the ancient city of Jerusalem that later became the capital of the united Israelite tribes under King David. This area is one of the most intensively excavated sides in the wider region. To Jewish Israelis, the site represents the beginning of their physical and emotional attachment to Jerusalem that has continued for over three thousand years.

At the same time, much of the site is in the predominantly Arab neighborhood of Silwan. The residents of Silwan, and the Palestinian Authority leadership are opposed to the archeological efforts being carried out in the City of David. In several instances, homes in Silwan were purchased and then destroyed to open more areas for excavations. Additionally, Palestinian leadership has denied in their official statements the existence of any Jewish connection to Jerusalem.

12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch - at Abu Shukri
1:00 PM	Depart
1:15-2:15 PM	<i>Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part II: Post-1967 Neighborhoods & the Security Barrier</i>

Post-1967 Neighborhoods

When Jerusalem was reunified in 1967, following 19 years of division, the State of Israel extended the city's boundaries to include the strategic hills surrounding Jerusalem. These hills served as launching pads between 1948 and 1967 for sniper and mortar attacks on Israeli parts of the city by the Jordanian Army. Since 1967, these hills have become vibrant neighborhoods, fully integrated into the fabric of Jerusalem. It is vital for those discussing the issue of Jerusalem to understand these neighborhoods' strategic importance and their relationship to the areas in the immediate vicinity.

Security Barrier

After scores of suicide bombings and daily terrorist attacks against its civilians launched following the breakdown of the Camp David II talks, Israel began construction of a security barrier near the pre-1967 "Green Line" between Israel and the West Bank to prevent Palestinian terrorists from infiltrating into Israeli population centers. Since its construction began, the number of attacks declined by more than 90% and the number of Israelis murdered and wounded decreased by more than 70% and 85%, respectively. The barrier is approximately 455 miles long. To Israel, the security barrier serves as a necessary obstacle to protect its people. To the Palestinians and others in the world, the barrier represents a physical and symbolic divide.

This seminar will survey the security barrier at different points along its route to see first-hand the barrier's construction, the operation of crossing points in and out of Palestinian areas, and the technology that facilitates its operation. Both en route to the barrier and at the barrier itself, the group will explore the competing arguments raised by the Israelis, Palestinians and the international community.

2:15 PM	Depart for US Embassy
2:30-3:15 PM	US Embassy visit with U.S. Ambassador David Friedman
3:15 PM	Depart for Foreign Ministry
3:45-4:45 PM	<i>Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations: An Update</i> Meeting with Dr. Tal Becker Principal Deputy Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs - at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations

Since Israel's founding, the Jewish state has sought to reach a just and lasting solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict. The United States has been closely involved in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Most recently, in July 2013, Secretary of State John Kerry helped initiate a round of direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. The peace talks conclusively dissolved when the Palestinian political party Fatah signed a unity deal with the terrorist group Hamas.

Dr. Tal Becker is a senior member of the Israeli peace negotiation team, including in the last round of talks mediated by US Secretary of State John Kerry. In this position, he is on the front lines of many of Israel's most pressing diplomatic, legal and policy challenges and is a veteran negotiator, and key behind the scenes representative, for Israel in a wide variety of contexts. During this session, he will address the prospects for peace in the current political climate. He will also discuss the complex challenges that have prevented a final status agreement thus far.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 4:45 PM | Depart for the Knesset |
| 5:00 PM | Security check |
| 5:15-5:30 PM | <i>Israeli Democracy in Action</i>
Tour of the Knesset |
| 5:30-6:00 PM | Meeting with the Honorable Naftali Bennett
Minister of Education and Diaspora Affairs,
Leader, The Jewish Home Party
- at the Knesset |
| 6:00-6:30 PM | <i>A View From the Opposition</i>
Meeting with the Honorable Tzipi Livni
Former Foreign Minister and Justice Minister,
Member of Knesset, The Zionist Union Party
- at the Knesset |
| 6:30 PM | Depart for dinner |
| 7:00-9:30 PM | Dinner
- at Tali's |
| 9:30 PM | Overnight at the Orient Hotel |

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

Please bring your passports
Check out

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 7:30 AM | Breakfast on own
- at the hotel, Wingate room |
| 8:30 AM | Depart for Yad Vashem |
| 9:00-11:00 AM | <i>Remembering the Victims of the Holocaust</i>
Guided tour of Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum |

Yad Vashem

One cannot understand Israel's position on Iran's nuclear program without understanding the trauma of the Holocaust. Israelis view threats to its destruction considering the events of the 1930s and 1940s, when the German government's threats to exterminate the Jewish people were not taken seriously by the international community. This museum provides an important reference point as to how Israelis interpret the threat of an Iranian nuclear program and Iranian leaders committed to Israel's destruction.

Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, was established in 1953 by an act of the Israeli Knesset. Since its inception, Yad Vashem has been entrusted with documenting the history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust period, preserving the memory and story of each of the six million victims, and imparting the legacy of the Holocaust for generations to come through its archives, library, school, museums and recognition of the Righteous Among the Nations. Located on Har Hazikaron (the Mount of Remembrance) in Jerusalem, Yad Vashem is a sprawling complex of museums, exhibits, archives, monuments, sculptures, and memorials.

Every foreign leader that travels to Israel visits Yad Vashem. Yad Vashem has become a symbol of the Jewish people and its transformation from total helplessness to self-reliance and strength. Thus, a visit to Yad Vashem provides a historical context for the Jewish state. The museum's professional docent will guide the group through the main exhibit hall and the children's memorial.

11:00 AM Depart for the American Colony Hotel

11:30 AM-1:00 PM *A View from the Palestinian Authority*
Lunch with Dr. Saeb Erekat
Chief Negotiator, Palestinian Authority
- at the American Colony Hotel

A View from the Palestinian Authority

During this session, the delegation will have the opportunity to speak with a representative from the P.L.O., and hear the perspective of the Palestinian community.

1:00 PM Depart

1:30-2:30 PM *A View from the Prime Minister's Office*
Meeting with David Keyes, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister
- at the Crowne Plaza Jerusalem Hotel

A View from the Prime Minister's Office

During this session, the delegation will have the opportunity to speak with a representative from the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and hear the coalition's perspective on issues facing Israel and the region.

2:30 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

4:00-5:00 PM *Why a Jewish State?*
Meeting with Dr. Einat Wilf
Senior Research Fellow, The Jewish People Policy Institute (JPPI)

Why a Jewish State?

Einat Wilf is a prominent Israeli is a renowned author and thought leader in Israel. She provides a nuanced understanding of Zionism, the history of Israel, and the successes and challenges of the modern Jewish state. She will provide participants a greater understanding of the Israel's most pivotal moments, including the 70th anniversary of the founding of the state, and how those moments have shaped Israel's present and future.

5:00 PM Check-in to the Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel

7:30 PM Depart for dinner

8:00-10:00 PM *Tikkun Olam- Repairing the World*
Dinner with
▪ Dr. Clive Lipchin, Director,
Center for Transboundary Water Management
▪ Dr. Ofer Merin, Emergency Response from Haiti to Syria
▪ Sivan Ya'ari, Innovation Africa
- at Spoons

Tikkun Olam

One of the major tenets of Judaism is "Tikkun Olam", to "repair the world". This dinner will focus on representatives from organizations seeking to make the world a better place in various sectors. This evening will be a dinner discussion with entrepreneurs representing Israeli innovation and ingenuity that has had enormous impact both in Israel and abroad. The group will be meeting with innovators that are global leaders in water conservation, fighting against HIV/AIDS through medical innovation, and bringing Israeli technology and medicine to third world countries.

10:00 PM Overnight at the Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel

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Wednesday, July 4, 2018

7:45 AM Breakfast is served
 - at the hotel

8:00-9:15 AM *Regional Strategic Threats*
 Meeting with Brig. Gen. (res) Nitzan Nuriel
 Immediate Past Director of Counter-Terrorism, Prime Minister's Office
 - at the hotel

Regional Strategic Threats

Brig.-Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel is the immediate past director of the Counter-Terrorism Bureau at the Office of the Prime Minister, where he served until 2012. His duties included developing a national policy for border protection, cargo and aviation security, and advanced technology for public security. He is a veteran of the "Golani" Infantry Corp; he held command positions in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and South Lebanon. Today he is a research associate at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism at IDC Herzliya. With experience on all of Israel's borders, he will provide a broad overview of Israel's neighbors, and the unique challenges each poses to the Jewish state.

9:15 AM Depart for Adam Base

10:00-11:00 AM *Overcoming the Threat of Terror Tunnels*
 Visit to Tunnel Warfare Training Facility
 Briefing with Maj. Etai
 - at Adam Base

Terror Tunnels

During the 2014 Gaza conflict, Hamas used underground tunnels to terrorize Israel's civilian population. On April 16, 2016, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) discovered a new two-kilometers-long, concrete tunnel from the southern part of the Gaza Strip into Israel, near the border between Israel and Egypt. The discovery was made possible using a new tunnel detection technology. Given the similar threats facing the United States, including on the Korean Peninsula, the U.S.-Mexico border and in various locations in the Middle East, this breakthrough technology holds significant potential for the United States.

11:00-11:30 AM *US-Israeli Relations at Work: The "Oketz" K-9 unit*
 - at Adam Base

11:30 AM Depart

12:30-2:00 PM *How Israeli Armament Innovations Defend the U.S.*
 Lunch with Ari Sacher
 -at Deca

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2:00 PM Depart

3:00-4:00 PM *Save a Child's Heart*
Meet with Dr. Hourri and Visit the Recovery Home
- at Wolfson Hospital

Save a Child's Heart

Save a Child's Heart (SACH) is an Israeli- based international, non-profit organization. SACH is committed to saving lives by improving the quality of cardiac care for children from developing countries and creating centers of medical competence in these countries. SACH Israel has saved the lives of over 3,700 children from 50 countries where adequate medical care is simply unavailable. Approximately 50% of these children are from the Palestinian Authority, Jordan, Iraq and Morocco (countries with whom Israel has either no diplomatic relations or who are in a state of war with Israel). More than 30% are from Africa, and the remainder are from Asia, Eastern Europe and the Americas. These children are treated at the Wolfson Medical Center and housed at the Legacy Heritage Children's Home of Save a Child's Heart, both located in Holon.

4:00 PM Depart

4:30-5:00 PM *360° Bird's Eye View*
Briefing from the Azrieli Tower Rooftop

Azrieli Center Rooftop

From the rooftop of the Azrieli center, participants will be standing at the highest observatory in the Middle East. The panoramic view stretches from Ashkelon in the south to Hadera in the north. On a clear day one sees almost 70 percent of the country, as far as Jerusalem to the East. The importance of this visit is to provide participants a geostrategic viewpoint from which to understand the narrow waistline of Israel, which at its narrowest spans 9 miles from the Mediterranean to the West Bank. Additionally, the area visible from this vantage point – referred to as the Gedera-Hadera corridor – comprises a small rectangle of land that can be covered lengthwise in under an hour. This section of Israel includes over 50% of Israel's population, economic infrastructure, as well as its only International Airport.

5:00 PM Depart for hotel

7:00 PM Depart for Dinner

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7:30 PM

The Israeli Mosaic

Dinner with

- Tziona Koenig-Yair, National Commissioner, EEOC
 - Pnina Radaï, Director of Training programs, National school of Government,
CSC - Israel Civil Service
 - Rivka Ravitz, President's Rivlin Chief of Staff
 - Dan Slijper, LGBT Activist
- at Lumina

The Israeli Mosaic

"The Israeli Mosaic" will be a dinner discussion with Israelis representing some of the various societal sectors – all integral parts of the fabric of Israeli society and broader identity. The evening will be an opportunity to gain insight into the Israeli population as a whole, what governs the perspective and decisions of various sectors and to explore how each of the sectors represented fits into Israeli society and informs the collective national narrative.

10:00 PM

Overnight at the Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel

Thursday, July 5, 2018

Check out

7:30 AM

Breakfast on your own
- at the hotel

8:00 AM

Depart

8:30-9:30 AM

Start-Up Nation

Panel Discussion, moderated by Wendy Singer, with

- Gideon Ben-Zvi, BriefCam
 - Dr. Oren Milstein, StemRad
 - Dr. Yonatan Wexler, Orcam
- at Start-up Nation Central

Start-Up Nation

Israel is a giant when it comes to innovation: a global leader in R&D spending and Venture Capital investment, and home to global R&D centers for the likes of Google, Apple and IBM. This evening's Start-Up Nation dinner will include a discussion with entrepreneurs representing Israeli innovation and ingenuity that has had enormous impact both in Israel and abroad.

9:30 AM

Depart

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10:30-11:00 AM *Israel's Narrow Waistline – Strategic Concerns*
Briefing at Alfei Menashe

Alfei Menashe

Alfei Menashe is a Jewish community located on the western edge of the West Bank. Less than 10 miles from the Mediterranean Sea, Alfei Menashe provides a unique vantage point to discuss Israeli settlement policy, the routing of the security barrier, as well as Israel's narrow waistline.

The sliver of Israeli land west of the West Bank is often referred to as the Hadera-Gadera rectangle, with the city of Hadera denoting the northern point, and the city of Gadera the southern point. The Hadera-Gadera rectangle is home to over 50 percent of Israel's population, as well as civilian infrastructure. The area is also home to Israel's "silicon valley", as well as Ben Gurion international airport.

The discussion at Alfei Menashe will allow participants to see firsthand the proximity of Jewish and Arab neighborhoods in both Israel and the West Bank; as well as the strategic threats faced by the Israeli population living in Israel's narrow waistline.

11:00 AM-12:00 PM *Israeli Settlements in Focus*
Briefing with Oded Ravivi, Mayor of Efrat
Yariv Oppenheimer, immediate past head, Peace Now
-at Alfei Menashe Matnas

Israeli Settlement Policy

Israeli settlement policy is one of the more complex issues in the ongoing negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. This session provides an opportunity for members to get an insider's perspective on Israeli settlement policy, the differing views among Israeli citizens, and the role settlements play in the current political climate.

12:00-1:30 PM Depart

En route briefing:

- *The Jezreel Valley –
The Strategic Land Bridge connecting Asia and Africa*
- *Upper Galilee – Potential for Development*

The Jezreel Valley

Our tour guide will spend an hour during the drive from Israel's center to the north to provide the delegation a briefing on the Jezreel Valley and the Upper Galilee and the challenges facing these regions of the country.

For thousands of years, the Jezreel Valley served as a land bridge linking Africa, Asia and Europe, and serving as a thoroughfare for ancient caravans and, more frequently, armies. In

modern times, during World War I, for example, the British and Turkish forces fought a number of pitched battles in the valley. In 1948, following Israel's establishment, the combined forces of Iraq and Jordan attempted unsuccessfully to capture the valley in order to split the just-born Israel into two parts. In the early 20th century, after decades of neglect, Jewish pioneers drained the swamps in the valley, transforming this region into Israel's "breadbasket" known for wheat, cotton, sunflowers and fish ponds. The Jezreel Valley is also home to historical and biblical sites including Tel Megiddo and Nazareth.

Today it is an important symbol of Israel's complex and diverse political reality. The Jezreel Valley, together with the areas of the Lower and Upper Galilee, is home to most Israel's Arab citizens. A survey of this area provides an opportunity to discuss and learn about Israel's Arab citizens – 20 percent of the population – each of which has full democratic, social and welfare rights, the right to vote and serve in the Knesset, and the opportunity to serve on Israel's Supreme Court. These issues are not widely known and this segment gives trip participants the opportunity to understand Israel's relationship with its largest minority group.

Upper Galilee

The Upper Galilee is home to the largest variety of ethnic communities in Israel including Druze, Circassian, Arab Muslim and Arab Christian villages. The Galilee is also home to ancient Jewish and Christian holy sites that provide additional historical and political context to regional tensions. Just as in the case of the Jezreel Valley, the area illustrates the role of minorities in Israel.

At the same time, the Upper Galilee is home to some of the most prominent industrial hubs. Best known among them is the Tefen Industrial area, home to numerous enterprises established by the region's residents – Jewish and Arab. In 2006, Upper Galilee's ISCAR Metal Working Company was purchased for \$5 billion by Warren Buffet's conglomerate holding company. Since then, a number of American investors have become partners in some of the region's hi-tech and bio-tech companies.

While time does not permit for sites visits, a drive through the region allows for expanding on the importance of the area in the context of the U.S.–Israel relationship.

1:30-3:00 PM

Minority Rights in Israel

Lunch with Mohammad Darwashe

Director of Planning, Equality and Shared Living

Givat Haviva Educational Institute

- at his home, Nazereth

Minority Rights in Israel

As of the 2015 census, approximately 21% of Israeli residents are part of the non-Jewish minority, which includes, among others, Muslims, Christians, and Druze. As a liberal, democratic state, Israel is rooted in liberty, the rule of law, free and fair elections, and full civil rights for all

citizens. Currently 14 Israeli Arabs and 2 Druze serve in the 120-member Israeli Knesset. Our speaker, Mohammad Darawshe is currently the director of planning, equality and shared living at Givat Haviva Educational Institute –a non-profit organization founded in 1949 as the national education center of the Kibbutz Federation in Israel. His focus throughout his career is promoting coexistence and quality among Israel's Jewish and Arab-Palestinians citizens. He will discuss the current challenges facing minority groups in Israel, as well as ways the government of Israel and NGOs seek to address these challenges.

3:00 PM Depart

3:30-4:30 PM *Treating Syria's Wounded*
Visit to Ziv Hospital

The Ziv Medical Center

The Ziv Medical Center is situated in the heart of Israel's rural northern landscape and provides health care services and treatment for the north's ethnically and religiously diverse population. Since February 2013, Israel has taken in Syrians wounded in the course of the civil war currently being waged in that country. Many are treated at a field hospital on the border, where soldiers and paramedics of the IDF on the Israeli Golan Heights give them initial first aid and life-saving care. The Syrian wounded then either return to Syria, or are taken to an Israeli hospital to receive further treatment. Ziv Hospital is one such hospital, and has treated nearly five hundred victims of the Syrian conflict. At Ziv, the Syrian wounded, including children, civilians and militants alike, are provided with the best possible care from Israeli physicians using state of the art medical equipment. Although Israel and Syria have been in a state of war for decades, the Israeli doctors and staff at Ziv provide humanitarian aid for the wounded without regard for the patients' political or military affiliation. These efforts have been supported by The Israeli Health Department, which has spent well over 5 million dollars treating the wounded.

4:30 PM Depart

5:00-5:45 PM *Israel's Northern Border Concerns: Lebanon and Hizballah*
Briefing with Lt.-Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi
Northern Border Expert
- at ALMA Center, Tefen Industrial Park

5:45 PM Depart

6:30 PM Check-in to the Nof Ginosar Hotel

7:45 PM Depart for dinner

8:00-10:00 PM Dinner and Discussion
- at Decks

Dinner and Discussion

We will use this dinner as an opportunity to discuss the speakers and topics we have been exposed to thus far. We have found giving our participants an opportunity to discuss the topics and perspectives presented to them assists them in their ability to more fully understand the complexities Israel faces.

10:00 PM Overnight at Nof Ginosar Hotel

Friday, July 6, 2018

Check out

7:30 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel, Main Dining Hall

8:00 AM Depart

8:30-11:00 AM *Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee*
Tour of historical and religious sites around the Sea of Galilee

- Mt. of Beatitudes – Sermon on the Mount
- St. Peter's Church
- Capernaum – Jesus' Village
- Magdala

Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee

As part of the seminar's focus on the complex religious fabric of Israeli society, the group will be visiting several of the most sacred sites for Christians in the Holy Land. Included is a guided visit and discussion of some of the key events in the life of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee. Just as strategic surveys in Jerusalem focused on Jewish, Muslim, and Christian history and claims to the land, the site visits to the Christian sites help provide context for the competing religious narratives for the land of Israel. For example, we will be visiting the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, the most studied and read speech of any religion in history. Our guide will also lead discussions through Capernaum and St. Peter's Church.

11:00 AM Depart for the Golan Heights

12:00-1:00 PM *Israel's Northern Border Concerns: Syria*
Strategic survey of Israel's border with Syria
With Capt. (Res.) Ilan Shulman
- at Har Bental

1:00 PM Depart

1:15-2:30 PM Lunch

-at Habokrim

2:30-5:30 PM

Travel back to Jerusalem via the Jordan Valley

En route briefings:

- *Strategic Survey* – Israel's Border with Jordan
- *The Jordan Valley* – Israel's Defensive Buffer Facing East

Jordan: Relations with Israel, and the Growing Refugee Crisis

The tour guide will spend approximately an hour during the drive through the Jordan Valley to explore several topics related to Israel's eastern neighbor: specifically, Israeli-Jordanian strategic cooperation, as well as the implications of the Syrian civil war on the Kingdom.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan became the second Arab country after Egypt to recognize Israel when it signed a comprehensive peace agreement that ended nearly five decades of warfare. Shepherded by United States President Bill Clinton, the accord signed on Oct. 6, 1994, marked the onset of a new era of economic, cultural, and political dialogue and cooperation between the two countries.

In recent years, the two countries have worked together to combat the increased threat from terrorism by coordinating their security efforts and preventing infiltrations across their shared border. Today, Jordan hosts over 1.4 million Syrian refugees fleeing civil war. Following our discussion with Israeli soldiers patrolling the Syrian border, our guide will address how the influx of Syrian refugees and the threats in the region impact Jordan internally; as well as relations and further potential for strategic partnership between Jordan, the United States, and Israel.

5:30 PM

Check-in to the Orient Hotel

7:15 PM

Depart for dinner

7:30-9:30 PM

Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem

Traditional Sabbath evening dinner

With Rabbi Dr. Danny Gordis and his family

- at their home in Jerusalem

The Sabbath in Jerusalem

Israel, the only Jewish country in the world, boasts the unique tradition of honoring the Jewish Sabbath from Friday sundown until Saturday sundown. 80 percent of the Israeli population will commemorate the Sabbath, in various forms, which typically include a family dinner and special blessings. The Sabbath is especially significant in Jerusalem, home to the holiest site for Jews worldwide - the remains of the First and Second Temple.

The dinner will include a discussion on the importance of Jerusalem to the Jewish, Christian and Muslim populations; the potential for a final status agreement on Jerusalem (arguably the most sensitive final status issue); and the diplomatic challenges faced by Israel and the United States regarding Israeli urban development in the area.

9:30 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel

Saturday, July 7, 2018

8:00 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel, Main Dining Hall

8:30-10:00 AM Depart

En route briefing:

- *Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor*
- *The Dead Sea Region – Environmental Concerns*

Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor

On the drive from Jerusalem to Masada, the group will travel on the highway known as the “Jericho Road” is the strategic importance of the area east of Jerusalem. In 1948 and in 1967, the Jordanian army attacked Jerusalem from the east – the 1948 attack resulted in the city’s division that lasted until 1967. Since then Israel has established the City of Ma’ale Adumim east of Jerusalem, today home to some 40,000 residents. To the Palestinians, however, Ma’ale Adumim is the largest settlement on the West Bank. When Israel attempted to expand Ma’ale Adumim’s boundary, into an area known as “E-1”, the U.S. State Department stepped in and asked that no construction take place there. The issue needs to be examined with those discussing the future of Jerusalem in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Dead Sea Region

During our drive to and from the Dead Sea area, as well as during our visit to the Dead Sea, our tour guide will discuss a variety of issues integral to understanding the region, the country, and relations with both the Palestinians and Jordanians.

It is important to note that the region is mostly desert. For decades, Israel has been challenging this arid area and developing its agricultural potential. While the Middle East is suffering from water shortages, Israel, through modern technology and water conservation policies, including the recycling of over 80 percent of water used for domestic purposes and transferring it to agriculture, has literally “made the desert bloom.” Some of this technology is already being shared with Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. All sides realize that a comprehensive regional water policy will ensure food production necessary to satisfy the Middle East’s growing population. For example, in late 2013, the three parties agreed to build a Red Sea-Dead Sea water project to address the shortage of fresh, clean water in the region and the rapid loss of

water at the Dead Sea. This highlights the growing importance for Israel and her Arab neighbors to work together on joint environmental projects.

The key regional players also face serious environmental issues in the Dead Sea region. One of the major environmental concerns is the receding of the Dead Sea and the appearance of sinkholes, which cause the earth above to collapse. Roads, fields and buildings have collapsed due to this phenomenon, and experts are concerned the tourist infrastructure along the Jordanian and Israeli shores of the Dead Sea are also in danger. This issue has led to unprecedented cooperation between Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians and serves as a model for regional cooperation.

10:00-12:30 AM *History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire*
Guided tour of the National Archeological Park at Masada

Masada

The Sabbath in Israel begins Friday afternoon and concludes on Saturday evening. During the Sabbath, virtually everything in the country is closed including all government offices, businesses, newspapers etc. Therefore, for years, we have used Saturdays to expose our congressional members and staff delegations to some of the key historical and cultural sites in Israel such as Masada. Masada, which was excavated in the 1960s, is considered one of the most important archeological sites in Israel, indeed in the whole world.

Masada was the site of the last stand of the Jews in Israel after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Holy Temple in 70 A.D. A group of Jewish zealots fled to the Judean Desert and lived in the former mountaintop fortress of King Herod known as Masada for two years resisting the onslaught of the most powerful army in the world. Determined to break the resistance, the Romans finally scaled the mountain to capture and enslave the Jewish rebels. However, when they finally arrived, they found that all the men, women and children had killed themselves as a last act of defiance. They refused to give in to the Romans and become their slaves.

The ancient story of Masada has important contemporary relevance for the modern State of Israel. "Masada shall never fall again" has become the watchword of the country which has faced existential threats since its founding in 1948. Israel's elite military units, for example, are sworn in on top of Masada in a symbolic act of defiance against Israel's contemporary enemies. These soldiers along with the thousands of Israeli school children who visit Masada each year learn the lesson that Israel should never become so weak again that it would ever face national suicide as an option.

We will spend approximately two hours atop of Masada with a professional guide. The time at Masada with the guide is focused on three areas: 1. surveying the magnificent ancient excavations; 2. learning the narrative of Jewish resistance to the Romans backed by the archeological and historical evidence; 3. discussing the importance of the Masada story to the contemporary Middle East and the threats in the region.

During our trip to the Negev, we will also visit the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth and a major source of minerals for both Israel and Jordan.

12:30-1:30 PM	<i>Exploration of the Dead Sea Region</i> - at Herods Hotel
1:30-2:30 PM	Lunch - at Herods Hotel
2:30 PM	Depart for Jerusalem
4:00 PM	Return to hotel Check out
6:00-8:00 PM	<i>The U.S.-Israel Relationship: Bringing it All Together</i> Closing dinner - at the hotel

Closing Dinner

The closing dinner provides an opportunity for participants to process the scope of the week, from the religious center of the Judeo-Christian world in Jerusalem, to the bustling economic powerhouse of Tel Aviv; from the conflict plagued northern borders with Syria and Lebanon, to the environmental and geographical wonders of the Negev desert and the Dead Sea. We will process the range of topics explored, including the U.S.-Israel strategic partnership, prospects for Arab-Israeli peace, the experience of minorities in Israel, as well as greater existential threats throughout the region. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their takeaways, and ask any lingering questions that weren't covered throughout the week.

8:00 PM	Depart for the Airport
11:10 PM	Depart Tel Aviv

Sunday, March 25, 2018

4:10 AM	Arrive Newark
8:35 AM	Depart Newark
9:59 AM	Arrive Washington, D.C.

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